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Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 00971 281531Z

44
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 FDRE-00 PC-10 USIA-15

INR-10 DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 SWF-02 DRC-01

RSC-01 /176 W
---------- 071675
P 2814005" JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9917
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT : TITLE II GRAIN SHIPMENT TO GUINEA

REF: A. STATE 139172
B. DAKAR 3307
C. CONAKRY 860
D. CONAKRY 787

1. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDABLY DISAPPOINTED THAT FED CORN TRADE ARRANGEMENT COULD NOT BE WORKED OUT, BUT AGREES THAT FURTHER SIGNIFICANT DELAYS IN MEETING GUINEAN REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE. WE APPRECIATE AID/W EFFORTS TO RESOLVE PROBLEM QUICKLY BY EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

2. AS EMBASSY REPORTED (REF C), GUINEAN GOVERNMENT WAS VERY PLEASED TO LEARN EIGHTEEN DAYS AGO OF PROSPECT OF RECEIVING
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PAGE 02 CONAKR 00971 281531Z

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

URGENT DELIVERY OF 5,000 MT CORN AS INITIAL USG RESPONSE TO DROUGHT PROBLEM. TO INFORM THEM AFTER ALL THIS TIME THAT INITIAL RESPONSE MUST BE SCALED DOWN TO 1,600 MT SORGHUM SHORTLY WITH UNKNOWN QUANTITY CORN TO BE SHIPPED DIRECTLY FROM US AT SOME FUTURE DATE WILL CONSIDERABLY LESSEN THE FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS INITIALLY CREATED. GUINEAN GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT CRITICAL PERIOD IS PRESENT TIME PRIOR TO OCTOBER HARVEST AND THAT FIRST PREFERENCE (AFTER RICE) IS CORN.

3. FULLY UNDERSTAND AND CAN EXPLAIN REASONS WHICH PREVENT USG FROM FOLLOWING THROUGH WITH INITIALLY HOPED-FOR PLANS. BUT BELIEVE SOME OTHER ALTERNATIVES SHOULD BE EXPLORED.

4. IN VIEW OF GUINEAN NEED, AND ESPECIALLY OF POSSIBLE LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS DURING RAINY SEASON, GUINEANS WILL OBVIOUSLY WELCOME ANY AMOUNT OF SORGHUM DELIVERED QUICKLY. THEREFORE REQUEST SHIPMENT OF WHATEVER SORGHUM CAN BE SENT FROM DAKAR. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH SHIPMENTS WOULD NOT DECREASE CORN SHIPMENTS FROM US.

5. SINCE AT BEST CORN FROM US WOULD PROBABLY NOT ARRIVE UNTIL AUGUST, EMBASSY SUGGESTS TWO OTHER ALTERNATIVES DISCUSSED REFTEL B BE EXPLORED FURTHER. THESE WERE: (AL LOAN OF COMMERCIALLY PURCHASED MALIAN CORN (IF OF GOOD QUALITY), AND (B) USE OF BRITISH CORN. FROM INFO PROVIDED REFTEL B, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT USE OF BRITISH CORN MAY BE BEST POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM. BRISITH CORN IS PRESENTLY AT DAKAR PORT AND WITH BRITISH ASSENT, WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR DELIVERY. FURTHERMORE, TRANSFER OF BRITISH CORN WOULD RELIEVE CONGESTION AT DAKAR PORT. FINALLY, BRITISH MAY BE AGREEABLE TO DIRECT SHIPMENT OF ALREADY BAGGED GRAIN, THUS ELIMINATION COSTS OF REBAGGING. EMBASSY URGES THAT BRITISH BE APPROACHED ON THIS MATTER.

6. IF SHIPMENT OF CORN FROM US SEEMS ONLY FEASIBLE SOLUTION, THEN RECOMMEND EFFORTS BE CENTERED ON GETTING 5,000 MT CORN WHICH WE UNDERSTAND FROM MEETING IN DAKAR JUNE 24 (CONAKRY DCM PRESENT) NOW AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT FROM US TO CONAKRY, DEPENDING ONLY ON FINDING SHIP. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO INFORM GOG IF THIS IS PLANNED ACTION. IF THIS CAN BE
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SHIPPED RAPIDLY, PROBLEM MIGHT BE LARGELY RESOLVED.

7. EMERGENCY GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO CONAKRY DO NOT SEEM TO RAISE LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS PRESENT IN OTHER COUNTRIES (PORT CONGESTION, OVERLAND DELIVERIES, ETC). WE ALREADY HAVE GOG ASSURANCES THAT CONAKRY PORT CAN HANDLE SHIPMENTS AND THAT IN-COUNTRY DELIVERIES CAN BE EFFECTED RAPIDLY.

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TODMAN

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